Development (1923) Department

G.O. No.

38

DATED

[Despatch Abstract.]

J. A. Saldanha M.L.C. of Mangalore Kankanady

17 Oct 28

Dear Sir,

Dev 3159 I
19.10.28

In connection with the Resolution of the Legislative Council on 6/9/28 to ask Government to appoint a committee to enquire into the forest grievances so far as South Kanara is concerned, I may refer to the proceedings of the Council XIX-265, 763, 764, 765; XXI-301; XXX-60, 170, 678; XXXII, when I had to strive almost single-handed for the redress of forest grievances in the North-east, middle-east and south-east (Sullia XXX-170) of S.Kanara District. It is to be noted that these same grievances have been taken up by M.L.Cs of different political parties as may be seen from the proceedings e.g. XXXV-1340; XXXVII-409, 510 and of the last two meetings. Recently (in Sept) the D.F.O (Mr.Habibullah Saheb) and myself visited Iodar and Hosabettu forest reserves near Mudbidre, and after going round the forests and villages close by noted grievances as in the enclosed note, which correspond with the grievances of the people in the South East of the district (Sullia and Sampage see L.C. XXX-170) at a meeting of whom I was present and presided in 1925. The heart rending cry goes from one of the villages along the sub-ghaut villages to the other. If we are moved and call for enquiry from a human and cultivator's point of view - it is natural and it behoves Government to make an impartial enquiry by a committee (official and non-official). There may be exaggeration in the statements made to us, but it will be for the committee to enquire into them to find the substratum of truth.

Yours sincerely
J. A. Saldanha

To
The Secretary to Govt.
~~Law~~ ~~Sec~~ Development Dept (Forests)
Fort St George
Madras

P.T.O.

P.S. In my speech [illegible] 78-2
L.C.P.
of [illegible] XLIII – Carrington [illegible]
[illegible] Chairman" [illegible] [illegible]
In the hurry of correcting [illegible]
my speeches, [illegible]
I must [illegible] [illegible]

Forest grievances from the ryots and cultivators of the villages of Hosabettu, Todar, and Puchamogar, Karkal Taluk, S.Kanara District.

Ref Leg.Council Proc-XXX-30; XXXI-315; XXXII-42;

In July 1926, the ryots and cultivators of the above mentioned villages submitted to Government a petition urging several prayers. This petition having been forwarded to the Chief Conservator of Forests by endorsement No.2045 I-261 dtd 30.7.'26, he was pleased to reject all the prayers except two as per his order No.5878-26 dtd 22-11-'26. Myself and the D.F.O. (Mr.-Habibullah Saheb) visited the villages in September. The people brought to our notice these grievances:-

(1) The Todar and Hosabettu Forest reserves are treated as a fuel jungle for the benefit of Mangalore and Bantwal towns.- But we may point out that they comprise more of brushwood and undergrowth with most exhuberantly grown lantana and thorny shrubs, which turn the forest into a tangled jungle in most places impenetrable to human beings and harbour and help to breed as enormous number of wild beasts such as cheetahs, boars, deer, - shambur etc which have played and are playing havoc with the cultivated fields, gardens, and orchards, such as betel leaf gardens in which our cultivators are experts, while cheetahs attack and kill hundreds of our cattle every year.

(2) In proof of this ground the ryots assert that the villages mentioned above could boast of at least 3000 heads of cattle - (cattle, cows and buffaloes) ten years ago, whereas the number has now dwindled down to less than 300 as a result of the destruction by cheetahs.

(3) Further on account of the devastation of other wild animals such as boars, monkeys, deer and sambur several areas of - cultivated lands adjoining the reserved forestsare being destroyed ruthlessly and thrown out of cultivation. In proof of this the villagers mention the several acres of fertile and cultivated lands now reduced to waste especially round about the church - (called popularly Hospet Church), which is one the finest Gothic

buildings in Southern India re-built about 60 years [illegible] at a cost of nearly a lakh of rupees mostly out of the earnings [illegible] the villagers. It is significant that the same people are [illegible] unable to maintain the building and have its annual repair [illegible] are very much impoverished in consequence [illegible] devastation and destruction of their crops and cattle.

(4) Another injury inflicted on the people [illegible] of the exuberant growth of the jungle, is the [illegible] of malaria during the last 5 years [illegible] people is going on with great rapidity so that [illegible] shall have to abandon not only their homes but [illegible] heritage of ~~our~~ their magnificient churches. It is not [illegible] pools and ponds that malaria germs are fostered, but jungles [illegible] lot of moisture and keep the soil moist which is quite [illegible] create malarial mosquitoes. Besides it is [illegible] trees with a rough surface with [illegible] moisture which breed mosquitoes that [illegible].

(5) The attraction of moisture from [illegible] increase rainfall a bit but it has to be borne in mind [illegible] of trees, shrubs, and lantana etc absorb most of [illegible] on the hill slopes with the result that [illegible] quickly after the monsoons. In proof of this [illegible] a number of instances in which [illegible] had a perennial supply of water [illegible] weather. A large number of villagers have now to [illegible] to fetch water, whereas formerly water could be [illegible] throughout the year.

(6) While recognizing the importance [illegible] forests at the same time the people cannot but look [illegible] alarm at the growth of an huge immense mass of [illegible] studded with useless species of trees [illegible] with the entanglement of lantana and other thorny undergrowth.

(7) One baneful effect of this excessive [illegible] of jungles, is that there are now hardly pasture lands on which grass once grew profusely and provided a fairly good supply to ~~xxx~~ their cattle for grazing and to people for covering the thatched roofs of their houses.

5 5 9

(8) The concessions mentioned to be given to the ryots of cutting undergrowth and cutting down poles for rearing betel-leaf creepers are rendered nugatory by the practical impossibility of approaching them through impenetrable forest.

In these circumstances, firstly the ryots appeal for their succour by an humanitarian policy based upon a sympathetic consideration of the terrible sufferings of the poor ryots and cultivators, which they despair of receiving from the Forest Department and for which they may perhaps look forward to the officials under the control of the Revenue Department or the Agricultural Department through their expert panchayat officer, who, it is hoped, will look to the interests of humanity than to the wild vegetarian and wild animal interests. They are quite prepared to abide by the Forest Panchayat rules published by Government so far as they may be applied to them.

Secondly until this request is complied with, they beg to submit the following prayers:-

(a) that a belt of at least of two furlongs of completely levelled down space may be allowed from the boundary line of the forest reserve nearest to the wargs and their kumki lands, so as to prevent wild beasts crossing as far as possible,

(b) the thickest of the forest be set on fire in the cold weather about January which is likely to destroy atleast partly lantana and shrubwood etc. drive away wild beasts and render the forest penetrable.

A Saldanha
17/10/28

To Dev. S. A reply to this is necessary. Mem[illegible]
md 19.10.28. (D/) to 128

Dis. 3191 I / 20/10/28

Dear Law Member

In connection with the Resolution of the Legislative Council on 6/9/28 to ask Government to appoint a committee to enquire into the Forest grievances so far as South [illegible] is concerned, I may refer to the proceedings of the Council [illegible], 764, 765; XXI-501; XXX-60,170, 675; XXXI, [illegible] almost single-handed for the redress of forest grievances in the (XXX-170) North-east, middle-east and south-east (Sullia [illegible]) District. It is to be noted that the case [illegible] taken up by M.L.Cs of different political parties as may be seen from the proceedings e.g. [illegible]-1050, [illegible], [illegible] of the last two meetings. Recently (in Sept) [illegible] (Mr. [illegible] Sahib) and myself visited [illegible] near Mudbidre, and after going round the forests [illegible] close by noted grievances as in the [illegible], [illegible] correspond with the grievances of the people in the [illegible] district (Sullia and [illegible] see L.C.P. [illegible]-170, [illegible]) when I was present and [illegible]. [illegible] goes from one of the villages along [illegible] to the other. If we are moved [illegible] cultivator's point of view it is natural [illegible] Government to make an impartial enquiry by a committee (official and non-official). There may be exaggeration [illegible] to us, but it will be for the committee to enquire into them to sift the substratum of truth

Yours sincerely

J. T. Saldanha

To

The Hon'ble the Law Member, (Govt)

Fort St. George, Madras

P.S. I have sent a corrigendum = three chairmen for tens of chairmen on p. 282 of Vol. XLIII of L.C. Procs

Forest grievances from the ryots and cultivators of the villages of Hosabettu, Todar, and [illegible], Karkal Taluk, S.Kanara District.

Ref Leg.Council Proc-XXX-30; XXXI-315; XXXII-42;

H

In July 1926, the ryots and cultivators of the above mentioned villages submitted to Government a petition urging several prayers. This petition having been forwarded to the Chief Conservator of Forests by endorsement No.2045 I-261 dtd 30.7.'26, he was pleased to reject all the prayers except t[illegible] per his order No.5078-26 dtd [illegible]-11-'26. Myself and the D.F.O. (Mr.- Habibullah Saheb) visited the villages in September. The people brought to our notice these grievances:-

(1) The Todar and Hosabettu forest reserves are treated as a fuel jungle for the benefit of Mangalore and Bantwal towns.- But we may point out that they comprise more of brushwood and undergrowth with most exuberantly grown lantana and thorny shrubs, which turn the forest into a tangled jungle in most places impenetrable to human beings and harbour and help to breed an enormous number of wild beasts such as cheetahs, boars, deer, - sambur etc which have played and are playing havoc with the cultivated fields, gardens, and orchards, such as betel leaf gardens in which our cultivators are experts, while cheetahs attack and kill hundreds of our cattle every year.

(2) In proof of this ground the ryots assert that the villages mentioned above could boast of at least 3000 heads of cattle - (cattle, cows and buffaloes) ten years ago, whereas the number has now dwindled down to less than 600 as a result of the destruction by cheetahs.

(3) Further on account of the devastation of other wild animals such as boars, monkeys, deer and sambur several areas of - cultivated lands adjoining the reserved forests are being destroyed partly and thrown out of cultivation. In proof of this they [illegible] the several acres of fertile and cultivated lands now reduced to waste especially round about the church - (called popularly "Gosper" Church), which is one the finest Gothic

buildings in Southern India re-built [illegible] cost of nearly a lakh of rupees [illegible] man-agers. It is significant that [illegible] maintain the building [illegible] very much impoverished [illegible] stag-nation and destruction of their [illegible].

(4) Another injury inflicted [illegible] exuberant growth of the jungles, [illegible] mala-ria during the last [illegible] years [illegible] going on with great rapidity [illegible] have to abandon not only [illegible] of their magnificent [illegible] ponds that malaria [illegible] of moisture [illegible] keep the soil [illegible] malarial mosquitoes. [illegible] a rough [illegible] breed mosquitoes [illegible].

(5) The extraction [illegible] rainfall a bit but it [illegible] trees, shrubs, and lantana [illegible] hill slopes [illegible] after the monsoons. [illegible] ber of instances in [illegible] a perennial supply of water [illegible]. A large number of villagers have [illegible] fetch water, whereas formerly [illegible] throughout the year.

(6) While recognising [illegible] at the same time [illegible] cannot but [illegible] the growth of an huge [illegible] ded with useless species of [illegible] entanglement of lantana [illegible].

(7) The baneful effect of this excessive [illegible] les, is that there are no [illegible] pasture lands [illegible] once [illegible] profusely [illegible] cattle for grazing and the people [illegible]

[illegible]

(6) The concessions mentioned to be given to the ryots of cutting undergrowth and cutting down poles for rearing betel-leaf creepers are rendered nugatory by the practical impossibility of approaching them through impenetrable forest.

In these circumstances, firstly the ryots appeal for their succour by an humanitarian policy based upon a sympathetic consideration of the terrible sufferings of the poor ryots and cultivators, which they despair of receiving from the Forest Department and for which they may perhaps look forward to the officials under the control of the Revenue Department or the Agricultural Department through their expert panchayat officer, who, it is hoped, will look to the interests of humanity than to the wild vegetarian and wild animal interests. They are quite prepared to abide by the Forest Panchayat rules published by Government so far as they may be applied to them.

Secondly until this request is complied with, they beg to submit the following prayers:-

(a) that a belt of at least of two furlongs of completely levelled down space may be allowed from the boundary line of the forest reserve nearest to the vargs and their kumki lands, so as to prevent wild beasts crossing as far as possible,

(b) the thickest of the forest be set on fire in the cold weather about January which is likely to destroy atleast partly lantana and shrubwood etc. drive away wild beasts and render the forest penetrable.

Dt. 11-12 / 29-7

Rev: Dept.

From Mr J. A. Saldanha [illegible] d 17-10-20 — Forest grievances — South Kanara Dt.

Dp. 29/10.

Endt No 3159 I/20-1 d 29-10-20

Referred to the C.C. for remarks.

26-10-20.

27/10 20

To The C.C.F. with enclosure.

Op 1-5 C of in orig blue ink.

31-X - A

Dp 29/10.

31-X. A.

Letter No 3159 I/20-2 d 29-10-20

To

Mr J. A. Saldanha [illegible]
Kankanady Post.
Mangalore.

Sir,

I am to inform you that your letters dated 17-10-20 addressed to ~~me~~ this department and to the Hon'ble the Law Member regarding forest

12 ✓ Dev. 3842 I / 11-12-28

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSERVATOR OF FORES

L.Dis.No.9349/28.

Chepauk, Madras, dated 1st Decr.28.

From

A.Wimbush,Esq., I.F.S.,
Ag. Chief Conservator of Forests, Madras.

To

The Secretary to Gov-ernment,
Development Department.

11 DEC

Sir,

Subject:Forest Grievances - South Kanara Dt.
Refce.Government endorsement No.3159 I/28-1
dated 29th October, 1928.

The main grievances mentioned in the note received with Mr.Saldanha's letter are dealt with below:-

(E) P.5

(1) That Todar and Hoshabettu reserves harbour wild animals which destroy both cattle and crops - This has already been dealt with in para 6 of this office recent report to Government Reference No.8484/C2/28 dated 7-11-28. 2144 / 3/12

(E) P.3

(2) That forests accelerate spread of malaria - The Attention of the Government is invited to para 3 of the report referred to above, which deals with this point.

(3) That the forests have caused the drying-up of streams in their vicinity - The contention is opposed to the established fact that forests conserve water supply and prevent erosion.

(4) Want of Grazing ground - The difficulty is not understood. The two reserves have been under the forest village system since 1923 and cattle owners get a refund of half the grazing fees.

(5) That the forests are so impenetrable that the concession to cut poles as props for betel leaf creepers is rendered nugatory - Since 1926, the people have been allowed to cut poles required for the purpose from selected coupes subject to certain necessary restrictions. They are also allowed to clear undergrowth to a distance of half a mile in the interior and 200 yards in the coastal reserves. Disinclination to take this trouble can hardly establish a further grievance.

(6) That the two reserves should be handed over to

to Panchayat management under the Revenue Department - Mr.Tireman, after personal inspection and full consideration, declined to recommend this handing over for panchayat management.

(7) That, until the reserves are handed over to Panchayats (a) a belt of two furlongs of forests completely cleared of growth should be granted wherever they adjoin wargs and kumaki lands - At present, clearance of undergrowth to half a mile is allowed. But Mr.Tireman, after full consideration, refused to recommend clearance of trees even to a width of 200 yards,

and (b) the forests adjoining private holding should be burnt departmentally in cold weather - This point is dealt with in para 5 of this office report dated 7-11-1928.

8.12

FOR AG.CHIEF CONSERVATOR.

(with enclosures retd.)

VNS/6.12.

8-12-28.

14

23

[illegible] Dev. Dept

Subject:- Forest grievances - South Canara [illegible]

[illegible] from Mr. J. A. Saldanha [illegible]

To Under Secretary

[illegible] Mr. J. A. Saldanha submits a note dealing with forest grievances in South Kanara to be considered by the Forest Committee to be appointed with reference to the recent resolution passed by the Legislative Council. The Proceedings of the Council dealing with this resolution have been sent to the C.C. for remarks and therefore the question of appointing the Committee is still undecided. The present letter from Mr. Saldanha may, however, be sent to the C.C. for remarks. Draft Endt.+ is submitted.

Y/P
Bn. 27/10/28

2. With reference to Hm's remarks on* page 6 cf., the letter may be acknowledged for the present. Draft letter is ~~also~~ submitted.

Bn.
26-10-28.

+ Sent herewith
29/10.

Send usual reminder C.E.?
11/12

Send 2nd reminder
11/12

Bn.
27/10/28

Endt. 8159-D-28-1 d 29.10.28.

From the C.C.F. Lr. No. 9349/28 d 1.12.28

Please see C.C's report

~~A draft order on the lines is~~

~~submitted for approval.~~

15/12/28

15

Most of the grievances mentioned have been already considered in G.O. Ms. 2044 d. 3.12.1928 in connection with the budget motions in the Legislative Council. The M.L.C. has only repeated with reference to these particular reserves what he said in the Council generally.

Each point is dealt with by C.C. separately. A draft order on the lines of the C.C's report is submitted for approval.

21/12/28

Please

3/1

C4

5

4 4-1-29.

Send for issue
5/1/29

UNDER SECRETARY • DEPARTMENT
6 JAN

18 27

7. That until the reserves are handed over to the Panchayat management (a) a belt of two ~~lia~~ furlongs of forests completely cleared of growth should be granted wherever they adjoin warg and Kumaki lands.

Cf. P. 5

The Govt. regret that they cannot allow the clearance of trees. Clearance of undergrowth to half a mile is already permitted as a special concessio to the ryots of the locality.

Cf. P. 13

(b) that the forests adjoining private holdings should be burnt departmentally in cold weather.

~~As clearing is purely for their~~ ~~[illegible]~~ ~~own use,~~ the ~~Govt. are unable to accept~~ ~~the suggestion~~.

As the resulting advantage to a rel. small number of private individuals is far from commensurate with the public loss & departmental expense involved, the Govt. are unable to accept the suggestion.

UNR

To

J.A.Saldhana Esq., M.L.C.

C.C.F. 2

2 Van
Dpd. 1 P081
RS
8/1/29